

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 EA-06 NEA-10 NSC-05

SS-15 STR-04 CEA-01 L-03 ABF-01 FS-01 /095 W

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P 241855Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9983

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, BR

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF BLOCKED VIETNAMESE FUNDS

REF: A. STATE 145856 B. BRASILIA 4869

1. EMBASSY APPRECIATES FACT THAT U.S. AUTHORITIES ARE NOT REPEAT NOT IN POSITION TO DETERMINE WHO MAY PROPERLY DRAW FROM VIETNAMESE ACCOUNT HERE IN BRASILIA. THE MANAGER OF THE LOCAL BRANCH OF FIRST NATIONAL CITY HAS MADE IT CLEAR TO US THAT HE CAN NO LONGER RELEASE FUNDS TO THE FORMER VIETNAMESE DIPLOMATS SINCE THR FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS OFFICIALLY DESIGNATED THE ALGERIAN EMBASSY AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NEW SOUTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT. WE WOULD LIKE TO ASK AGAIN, THEREFORE, AS WE DID IN PARA 3 OF REFTEL B, WHETHER FUNDS FOR THE FORMER DIPLOMATS' SALARIES COULD BE RELEASED FROM BLOCKED ACCOUNT, WHICH IS IN NEW YORK, DIRECTLY INTO THE PERSONAL ACCOUNTS, ALSO HELD IN NEW YORK, OF THE FOUR FORMER SOUTH VIETNAMESE DIPLOMATS INVOLVED. THE FORMER CHARGE OF VIETNAMESE EMBASSY IS PRESSING US FOR AN ANSWER AS TO WHETHER THIS

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CAN BE DONE. THE FOUR FORMER DPOLOMATS INVOLVED

ARE MOST ANXIOUS TO RECEIVE THEIR SALARY FOR THE APRIL-JUNE PERIOD, WHICH RANGES FROM ABOUT \$1,000 TO ABOUT \$3,000 EACH. THE CHARGE HAS TOLD US THE NEEDS THE FUNDS TO PAY FOR THE AIR TICKETS FOR HIS FAMILY TO LEAVE BRAZIL. THIS MATTER HAS TAKEN ADDED IMPORTANCE IN LIGHT OF ATTITUDE OF ALGERIAN EMBASSY (SE BELOW).

2. FOLLOWING GUIDANCE PROVIDED REFTEL A, PARA 2, WE HAVE INFORMALLY DISCUSSED WITH ALGERIAN EMBASSY THE POSSIBILITY OF TREASURY RELEASING FUNDS TO IT, AS REPRESENTATIVE OF NEW SOUTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT, FOR LEGITIMATE EXPENSES TO LIQUIDATE COSTS INCURRED BY RVN EMBASSY, INCLUDING SALARIES OF FORMER DIPLOMATS. THE REACTION OF ALGERIAN MINISTER-COUNSELOR WAS NEGATIVE, ALTHOUGH HE SAID HE COULD NOT MAKE A FINAL DECISION PENDING FURTHER INSTRUCTION FROM ALGIERS. THE MINISTER ARGUED THAT, AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NEW SOUTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT, THE ALGERIAN EMBASSY COULD NOT SEE HOW IT COULD AUTHORIZE THE RELEASE OF FUNDS FROM AN ACCOUNT OVER WHICH IT HAS NO AUTHORITY AND FOR OBLIGATIONS FOR WHICH IH IS NOT DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE. SPEAKING AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF NEW GOVERNMENT, THE MINISTER-COUNSELOR SAID "IF THE ACCOUNT IS BLOCKED IT IS BLOCKED." IN ANY CASE, HE HOPED TO RECEIVE INSTRUCTIONS FROM HIS GOVERNMENT SHORTLY ON HOW THIS MATTER IS BEING HANDLED IN OTHER PLACES, INCLUDING WASHINGTON. HE WOULD MAKE A FINAL DECISION AFTER RECEIPT O THIS INFORMATION. GIVEN THIS PRELIMINARY NEGATIVE ATTITUDE OF THE ALGERIAN EMBASSY, THE HUMANITARIAN ASPECTS OF TRYING TO FIND A LEGITIMATE WAY TO PAY THE SALARIES OF THE FOUR STRANDED EX-SOUTH VIETNAMESE DIPLOMATS TAKESON ADDED IMPORTANCE.

3. TO HELP US IN FUTURE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE ALGERIAN EMBASSY, WE WOULD APPRECIATE INFORMATION ON HOW RVN EMBASSIES BEING LIQUIDATED IN OTHER PLACES, INCLUDING WASHINGTON.

CRIMMINS

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